

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 02822 312018Z

70

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEA-11 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 NIC-01

SAJ-01 DRC-01 /147 W

----- 024763

R 311905Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6519

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 2822

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, VS

SUBJECT: PARACEL ISLAND DISPUTE, FRENCH POSITION

REF: A. STATE 019749; B. PARIS 2298

1. GOVERNMENT REACTION AS REPORTED REF B (NOTAL): THE
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FRENCH GOVERNMENT WISHES TO BE AS LITTLE INVOLVED IN THE

PARACEL ISLAND DISPUTE AS POSSIBLE AND HOPES FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. ALTHOUGH FRENCH ADMIT THAT DURING THE PERIOD WHEN VIETNAM WAS A FRENCH PROTECTORATE, THE GOF PRESSED THE ANNAMITE EMPEROR'S CLAIM TO THE ISLANDS, THEY SAY THEY WILL NOT NOW HAVE AN OFFICIAL POSITION SINCE THEY ARE NO LONGER DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE AFFAIR. THE GOF IS RESTUDYING THE CASE, HOWEVER, AND QUAI OFFICIAL IMPLIED THAT FRENCH LEGAL EXPERTS WILL NOW HAVE A MORE OBJECTIVE VIEW THAN IN THE PAST. SINCE GVN WILL USE DOCUMENTS DATING FROM THE PERIOD OF THE PROTECTORATE IN SUPPORT OF THEIR CLAIM, IT ASKED THE GOF TO COOPERATE IN PROVIDING DOCUMENTS IN PARIS. WE BELIEVE GOF WILL MAKE SOME DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE TO GVN.

2. PRESS REACTION: FRENCH PRESS HAS COVERED THE PARACEL ISLAND DISPUTE FULLY, BUT THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE COMMENT EXCEPT SPECULATION ABOUT WHY PRC SHOULD PRESS THEIR CLAIM SO FORCEFULLY AT THIS TIME. IN GENERAL FRENCH PRESS TREATS THE MATTER AS ONE WHICH DOES NOT INVOLVE FRANCE. THERE WAS SOME CONCERN EARLY IN THE CONFLICT ABOUT THE US POSITION AND THEN RELIEF THAT THE US REMAINED OUT OF THE DISPUTE. STONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005